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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: JOHANNES NOISTERNIG ET AL. - 1 (PCT)

PCT NO.: PCT/EP2003/006303

FILED: JUNE 14, 2003

TITLE: INHERENTLY RIGID INSTRUMENT CARRIER ASSEMBLY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP PCT

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the initial Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.